



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Press Release

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Cal/EPA Hosts Summit to Discuss Governor's Climate Action Initiative

(SAN FRANCISCO) – The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) today convened a summit at San Francisco City Hall to receive comments on a groundbreaking report released last week by the California Climate Action Team (CAT). The report, commissioned by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, outlines dozens of recommendations to meet the Governor's ambitious climate change emission goals.

"The environmental and economic impacts of climate change – from extreme water shortages to the increased threat of forest fires – are especially significant in California," said former Cal/EPA Secretary and CAT chairman Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D. "I applaud Governor Schwarzenegger for commissioning the Climate Action Team Report and for realizing that California must act now to address the causes of climate change."

On June 1, 2005 – at the same location as today's summit – Governor Schwarzenegger signed an executive order directing Cal/EPA to develop a plan with input from other state agencies to reduce climate change emissions in California to 2000 levels by the year 2010, to 1990 levels by the year 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

At today's summit, Governor Schwarzenegger called on Californians to work together to develop policies based on many of the Climate Action Team's recommendations, including a mandatory emissions reporting system, a market-based emissions trading program, and a world-class public education program to teach all Californians how to reduce greenhouse gases.

The summit also featured panel discussions involving climate change experts, business leaders, environmental organizations, academics and others. The panels focused on developing market-based solutions, such as emission trading programs, to meet the governor's goals, and new technologies being developed in California that help reduce climate change emissions.

"Many California-based companies are developing cutting-edge technologies that can be used throughout the world to combat global warming," said Dr. Lloyd. "By encouraging investment in these companies, we can bring these technologies to the market quickly and help create new jobs in California."

The Climate Action Team consists of 16 state agency leaders representing: Cal/EPA; the Resources Agency; Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; Department of Food and Agriculture; Public Utilities Commission; and Office of the Governor.

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